

1-19 (CANCELED).

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for one of strapping ~~[[and/or]] and~~ bundling of one of pallets and articles, the apparatus having a strapping device from which a packaging band can be passed around ~~the pallets/articles~~ one of the pallets and articles and having a closure device for subsequent tensioning and ~~closure of~~ closing the ~~packing~~ packaging band;

wherein the strapping device (1) is provided with a guide device (2) on which the closure device (3) is arranged, with the guide device (2) supporting at least some ~~of the~~ weight of the closure device (3), the guide device (2) has an element (5, 16) mounted for rotation about a horizontal axis (14).

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the guide device (2) has a linear guide (4) ~~[[,]]~~ which at ~~one of whose ends~~ end thereof supports the closure device (3) ~~is arranged~~.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the closure device (3) is arranged such that the closure device (3) ~~can move~~ is movable on the linear guide (4) ~~[[by]]~~ via a joint element (7).

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein a damping element (10) is arranged between the linear guide (4) and the joint element (7) for ~~defined~~ providing desired alignment of the closure device (3).

24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the joint element (7) has two holes (11) ~~[[,]]~~ which are ~~arranged~~ offset ~~through~~ by 90° with respect to one another ~~[[,]]~~ so as to vary ~~[[the]]~~ alignment of the closure element (3).

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the closure device (3) can pivot only within a predetermined angle range, ~~[[with]]~~ of a maximum of about 45°, about a vertical axis (8b) of the joint element (7).

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the closure device (3) is connected to the joint element (7) by a detachable connection; ~~preferably a plug connection (12).~~

27. (CANCELED)

28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein~~
An apparatus for one of strapping and bundling of one of pallets and articles, the
apparatus having a strapping device from which a packaging band can be passed
around one of the pallets and articles and having a closure device for subsequent
tensioning and closing the packaging band;

wherein the strapping device (1) is provided with a guide device (2) on
which the closure device (3) is arranged, with the guide device (2) supporting at least
some weight of the closure device (3); the guide device (2) has a guide element (5) for
bearing and supporting the linear guide (4), and the guide element (5) is mounted such
that the guide element (5) can rotate about a horizontal axis (14).

29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 20,
 wherein the guide device (2) is connected to the strapping device (1) by a bracket.

30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim ~~[[28]]~~ 29,
 wherein a damping element (15) is arranged between the bracket (6) and the guide
 element (5) to support at least some ~~of the weight of~~ at least one of the closure element
 (3) ~~and/or of and~~ the guide device (2), and for alignment of the linear guide (4).

31. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 26, wherein
 the linear guide (4) is ~~in the form of a rail,~~ and the ~~element is a~~ guide element (5) which
 has rollers (13) for guiding and bearing against the linear guide (4).

32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein
 the guide element (5) is arranged in an inclined orientation so as to prevent the linear
 guide (4) from inadvertently moving on its own in ~~[[the]]~~ a direction of ~~the pallets/articles~~
one of the pallets and articles.

33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein
 the closure device (3) is an electrical hand-held appliance, ~~preferably a welding~~
~~appliance with a rechargeable battery.~~

34. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein
a damping element (15) is arranged between a bracket (6) and the element (5, 16) for
supporting at least some weight of one of the closure element (3) and the guide device

(2) and each ~~[[the]]~~ damping ~~elements are~~ element comprises a compressed gas cylinder (10, 15).

35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the strapping device (1) is provided with at least one of a spacer (17) and/or a distance gauge.

36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the guide device (2) is a joint device (16) provided with damping elements (10, 15).

37. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein~~
An apparatus for one of strapping and bundling of one of pallets and articles, the apparatus having a strapping device from which a packaging band can be passed around one of the pallets and articles and having a closure device for subsequent tensioning and closing the packaging band;

wherein the strapping device (1) is provided with a guide device (2) on which the closure device (3) is arranged, with the guide device (2) supporting at least some weight of the closure device (3); the guide device (2) having a first linear guide (4a) and a further linear guide (4b), the first linear guide (4a) can be moved essentially horizontally, and [[a]] the further linear guide (4b), which can be moved essentially vertically, is arranged between [[the]] an end of the first linear guide (4a) and the closure device (3).

38. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the ~~vertical~~ further linear guide (4b) is provided with a damping element (15) ~~in order to~~ compensate for ~~[[the]]~~ any weight forces which occur.

39. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the element is a guide element (5).

40. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the element is a joint device (16).